

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 13 and 15 have been cancelled and claims 21, 22 and 23 have been added. Claim 4 has been amended to include the features of cancelled independent claim 1 and cancelled dependent claim 3 and claim 14 has been amended to include the features of cancelled independent claim 11 and cancelled dependent claim 13. Claims 2, 6, 7-9, 12, 16-20 have also been amended. No new matter has been presented by way of the amendments or new claims.

Claims 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 16-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 14 and 21 are independent claims.

DOUBLE PATENTING:

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13 and 15-17 stand rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,210.

Since none of the claims of the present application have yet been allowed, it is believed that any submission of a Terminal Disclaimer or arguments as to the non-obvious nature of the claims would be premature. As such, it is respectfully requested that Applicants be allowed to address any obviousness-type double patenting issues remaining once the rejections of the claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102 are resolved.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102:

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,532,210 (Park). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 4 recites at least:

“at least one sheet attached to the clamping area to prevent generation and development of cracks near the center hole, the clamping area being recessed such that a surface of the sheet attached to the clamping area is level with or lower than a surface of the lead-in area”

Park fails to suggest or disclose at least the above-claimed features. The Office Action asserts on page 10, paragraph 2, that Park describes the above-claimed features at FIG. 2B and at col. 4, lines 25-27. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The cited text of Park states:

The annular protrusion portion 15 is formed around the center hole 10a, and integrally formed as one body with the non-recording surface portion 11.

Applicants assert that integrally forming an annular protrusion with a non-recording surface in no way suggests or discloses the above-claimed features. In fact, Park at no point even mentions the terms “recess” or “recessed,” nor does Park illustrate a recessed disc surface in FIG. 2B. Conversely, FIG. 2B illustrates two protruding portion of the disc, items 15a and 15b.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the cited reference, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Since similar features recited by independent claim 14, with potentially differing scope and breadth, are not taught or disclosed by Park, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 14 also allowed.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 6-9, 12 and 16-20, which variously depend from independent claims 4 and 14, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 4 and 14, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

NEW CLAIMS:

New claim 21 is directed to “at least one paper sheet attached to and surrounding the center hole to prevent generation and development of cracks in the optical disc.” Therefore, it is submitted that claim 21 patentably distinguishes over the prior art. New claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 21, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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